
HOUSE BILL 2049

State of Washington 60th Legislature 2007 Regular Session

By Representatives Rolfes, Strow, Appleton, Hunt, Springer,
McDermott, VanDeWege, Seaquist, McCoy, Eickmeyer and Lantz

Read first time 02/06/2007. Referred to Committee on Select
Committee on Puget Sound.

1 AN ACT Relating to Puget Sound marine resource committees; adding
2 new sections to chapter 90.71 RCW; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** (1) The legislature finds the challenge of
5 developing realistic, effective, and efficient solutions to the
6 conservation and management issues facing Puget Sound requires calling
7 on all available sources of knowledge and creative thinking available
8 in the collective wisdom of Washington's citizens. The legislature
9 further finds that Puget Sound is both a dynamic and localized
10 waterbody with unique local challenges and unique local solutions. As
11 such, it is essential for the future management of Puget Sound that
12 citizens, through their local government, have a voice and an
13 opportunity to share their dedication and interest in the well-being of
14 their community's unique marine waters, while providing a valuable
15 contribution to the statewide efforts aimed at restoring the Puget
16 Sound as a whole.

17 (2) The legislature further finds that federally led efforts to
18 establish marine resource communities have proven to be an exciting
19 vehicle for involving local citizens and community leaders in the

1 future discussions, decisions, and restoration commitments in the
2 waters most important to the community. The existing model of using a
3 community-based, nonregulatory organization to examine issues
4 particular to a community's corner of Puget Sound, applying for grants,
5 and thoroughly and fairly investigating available options and solutions
6 has proved to be a valuable asset to Puget Sound and its communities,
7 and is worthy of replication throughout the Puget Sound basin.

8 (3) In this act, the legislature intends to establish a structure
9 on which interested local communities can harness the dedication,
10 creativity, and wisdom of their residents in the form of marine
11 resource committees. These committees are intended to compliment, and
12 not compete with or undermine, any other governmental efforts to
13 restore and manage the Puget Sound.

14 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** (1) The legislative authority for each city
15 and county that borders the marine waters of Puget Sound is authorized
16 to establish marine resource committees consistent with the procedures
17 outlined in section 3 of this act.

18 (2) The mission of a marine resource committee created under this
19 section is to address, utilizing sound science, the needs of the marine
20 ecosystem local to the city or county participating in the marine
21 resource committee.

22 (3) A marine resource committee created under this section should
23 review current data and resource conservation and management programs
24 and make prioritized recommendations for additional measures that might
25 be necessary to enhance protection of marine resources.

26 (4) The role of a marine resource committee in developing
27 recommendations includes, but is not limited to:

28 (a) Utilizing existing data and, to the extent necessary, helping
29 to gather new data on the health of local marine resources;

30 (b) Making scientifically based recommendations on local candidate
31 sites for marine protected areas;

32 (c) Working closely with local and state officials to help
33 implement recommendations of the marine resource committee;

34 (d) Promoting public outreach and education around marine resource
35 conservation and management issues; and

36 (e) Engaging in any other activities that the participating city or
37 county deems appropriate.

1 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** (1) A marine resource committee, as
2 described in section 2 of this act, may be created by the legislative
3 authority of any city or county bordering the marine waters of Puget
4 Sound, in cooperation with all appropriate special districts within
5 their boundaries. Adjacent county and city legislative authorities are
6 encouraged to coordinate their efforts whenever there is a mutual
7 interest in creating a marine resource committee.

8 (2) Participating county and city legislative authorities must
9 select members of the marine resource committee, ensuring balanced
10 representation from: Local government; scientific experts; effected
11 economic interests; effected recreational interests; and environmental
12 and conservation interests.

13 (3) County and city residents may petition the county or city
14 legislative authority to create a marine resource committee. Upon
15 receipt of a petition, the city or county legislative authority must
16 respond in writing within sixty days as to whether they will authorize
17 the creation of a marine resource committee as well as the reasons for
18 their decision.

19 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 4.** Nothing in section 2 or 3 of this act is
20 intended to expand or limit the authority of local marine resource
21 committees existing as of the effective date of this section.

22 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 5.** Sections 2 through 4 of this act are each
23 added to chapter 90.71 RCW.

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